

REMARKS

This is a preliminary amendment of the U.S. National Stage application, Ser. No. 10/030,832, corresponding to PCT/DE 00/02250.

New method claims 13 to 18 have been filed as well as new monitoring system claims 19 and 20. Only the original method claims 1 to 7 have been canceled, but the original monitoring system claims 8 to 12 have been retained, because they are in a somewhat different form with different limitations.

The new independent method claim 13 includes the features and limitations of the amended main method claim 1 filed in the International Application dated July 25, 2001. According to the International Preliminary Examination Report of October 30, 2001 this amended main method claim 1 claims subject matter, which is both novel and unobvious.

The new independent monitoring system claim 19 was drafted by converting the method steps of claim 13 to device components using "means for" terminology. Basis for this claim is present in the original figures 2 and following and in the description of the processing steps in the specification associated with these figures. In addition, the actual device component of the system shown in Fig. 1 in which the various "means for" resides or is located is included in claim 19 in the last paragraph. Dependent claim 20 includes the subject matter of claim 11 in which the method step wording has been converted to device language using "means for".

The first part of the specification on page 1 has been replaced by a new part including standard section headings as recommended in the U.S. Patent Office Rules and also a summary of the new main method claim.

**APPENDIX SHOWING THE CHANGES NECESSARY TO OBTAIN
THE REPLACEMENT SPECIFICATION PARAGRAPHS ABOVE**

Underlining shows additions; brackets show deletions

The following changes were made in the paragraphs and headings running from page 1, line 3 to page 1, line 15:

[Prior Art] **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

1. Field of the Invention

The invention [is based on a method and a monitoring system as generically defined by the preamble to the independent claims] relates to methods and systems for monitoring a scene to detect changes, especially changes that indicate a theft of an object.

2. Description of Related Art

The publication "Gefahrenmeldesysteme, Technik und Strukturen" {Danger Alert Systems, Technology and Structures} by Harald Fuhrmann, Hüttig-Verlag, Heidelberg, 1992, ISBN 3-7785-2185-3, pp. 82 - 83, has already disclosed comparing a reference image of a [viewfield] view field with a current image so that changes in the current image in relation to the reference image

cause an alarm to be triggered; in order to detect differences, a gray value comparison is executed.

[Advantages of the Invention] **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

It is an object of the present invention to provide a method and a system for monitoring a scene to detect changes, especially theft of objects or dangerous conditions, in which changes in illumination and brightness do not affect the results.

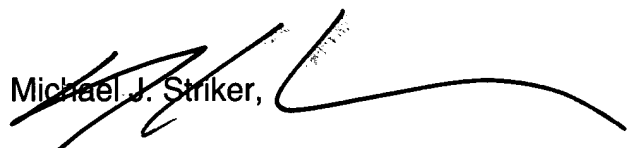
According to the invention the method for monitoring a scene to detect a change includes the steps of:

- a) establishing an edge image and a reference edge image based on a reference image and a current image detected in a view field of a stationary image capturing device;
- b) calculating a correlation value for at least one region of the edge image and a corresponding partial image of the reference edge image;
- c) identifying a change of the at least one region when the correlation value falls below a threshold value; and
- d) outputting an alarm when the at least one region is identified as changed for a predetermined time interval longer than a corresponding time interval that the edge image is detected to be changed.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawing be further amended or corrected in formal respects to put this case in condition for final allowance, then it is requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Any costs involved should be charged to the deposit account of the undersigned (No. 19-4675). Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing the case to allowance, he or she is invited to telephone the undersigned at 1-631-549 4700.

In view of the foregoing, favorable allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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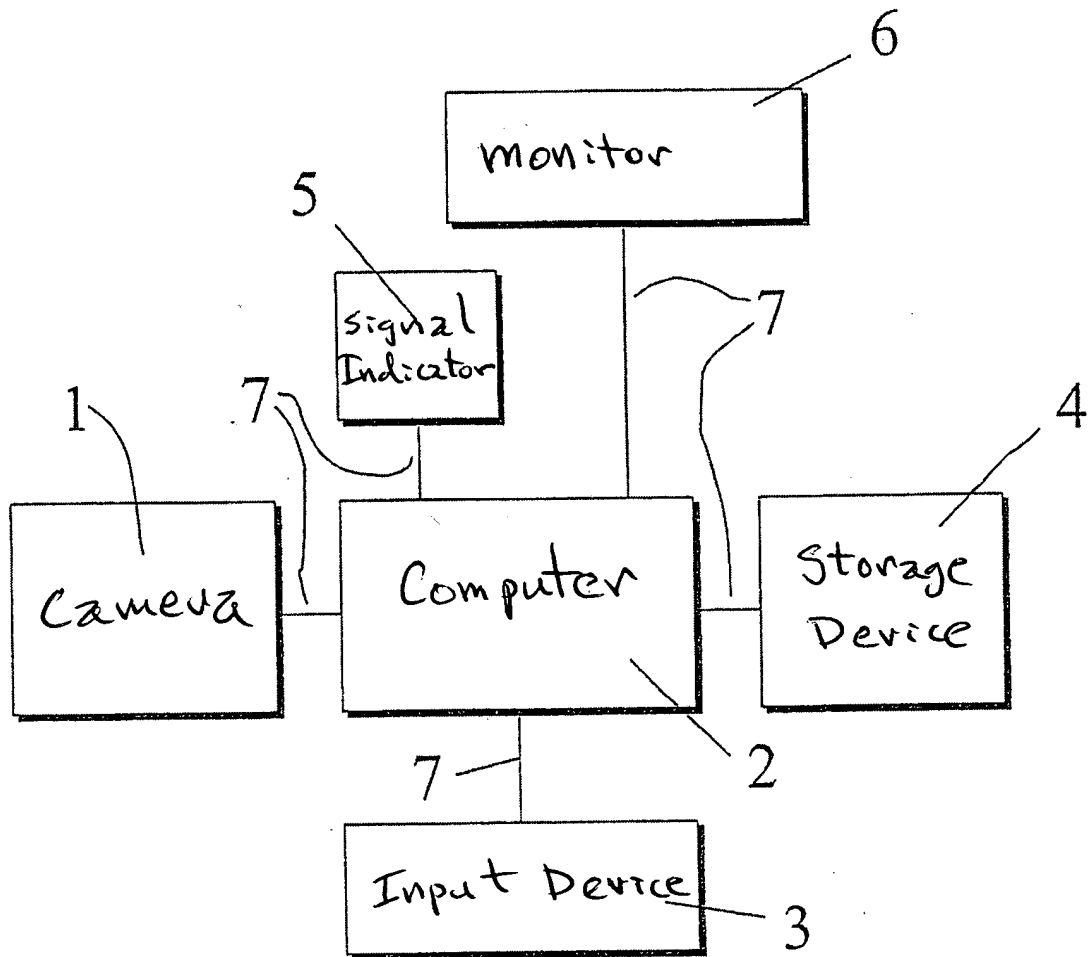


Fig.1